# Lough Derrygeeha, Co. Clare, a New Locality for *Cyrnus insolutus* McLachlan (Trichoptera: Polycentropodidae)

By J. P. O'Connor*

The caddisfly *Cyrnus insolutus* McLachlan was recently collected at Lough Derrygeeha, Co. Clare, Ireland (grid reference R155563). In Britain, this species is only known from Blelham Tarn in the English Lake District (Hickin, 1967). It was first discovered there in July 1942 when adults were found along a few yards of rocky shore shaded by trees. They occurred mainly on rocks covered with moss at the water's edge or at the roots of grasses growing close to or in the water (Kimmins, 1942). *C. insolutus* still inhabits this tarn and the larvae have been described by Edington (1964). An additional Irish specimen has been taken in the Killarney area of Co. Kerry (O'Connor and Wise, *in press*).

Lough Derrygeeha is a small pond surrounded by dense vegetation including coarse grasses and *Phragmites. Juncus, Typha, Equisetum* and water-lilies (Nymphaeceae) are also common and alders (*Alnus glutinosa* (L.)) line part of the shore. In the littoral region, the substratum between the plants is composed mainly of decaying plant debris.

When the pond was first visited on the 8.vii.73, the thick cover prevented the efficient utilisation of a hand-net. In an effort to collect material, a section of vegetation was sprayed with a commercial aerosol containing pybuthrin. Only a very restricted area near the water was subjected to the chemical however in order to prevent undue damage to any associated fauna. Within a short period after application, caddisflies emerged from amongst the roots and stems. These individuals mainly attempted to climb up the plants or to take flight and they were readily captured. A few became trapped in the surface film of the water. Altogether nine males of *C. insolutus* were collected. A larva was obtained in a littoral sample taken on the same day and it closely resembles Edington's (*loc. cit.*) description. Minor differences exist in that there is some lightening of pigment on the genae adjacent to the constriction of the frontoclypeus, but otherwise the markings are quite distinct from those of *C. flavidus* McLachlan larvae (Edington, *in litt.*).

On the 25.iii.77, an attempt was made to collect additional larvae. Since a search of the littoral area failed to reveal any specimens, substrate samples were taken and subsequently live-sorted. This procedure yielded a total of six *C. insolutus* larvae, all of which have similar markings to those described above. The immature stages of *Holocentropus picicornis* (Stephens) and *H. dubius* (Rambur) were also obtained. Presumably these animals either spin their nets between the living plants or attach them to the debris.

Klingstedt (1937) considers that the scattered occurrence of *C. insolutus* throughout the western section of continental

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Europe from Fennoscandia to Iberia suggests an old specialised branch of *Cyrnus* on the way to becoming extinct. It is interesting therefore that this caddisfly has now turned up in Ireland. On the continent, it has been recorded from ponds and lakes (Nybom, 1960). Since Ireland abounds in these habitats, it is hoped that this unusual insect will be taken at many more Irish stations.

Voucher specimens have been deposited in the National Museum of Ireland and in the British Museum (Natural History).

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# Notes and Observations

CURIOUS BEHAVIOUR OF THE GREY DAGGER (ACRONICTA PSI L.) OR DARK DAGGER (A. TRIDENS D. & S.). — A friend, Mr. M. K. Swales, the biology master at Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffs., telephoned me recently with an account of the behaviour of a moth he and his family had noticed in the garden and I asked him to write it down for possible inclusion in *The Record.* The moth I had no difficulty in identifying from his description as *A. psi* — or, of course, *A. tridens.* Mr. Swales writes, 10th July, 1977, as follows:

"This afternoon, we observed what you confirm to be a grey dagger moth behaving in a most interesting way on the south-facing wall of our house, which is built of two colours of sandstone — "white" (grey in the weathered state) and "red" (pink). When first seen, the moth was on grey stone and remarkably well camouflaged. However, the wall, being in full sunlight at between 3.00 and 4.00 p.m., was presumably too warm for the moth to stay in one place, so it moved quite